ONE DOLLAR A YEAR.

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OPENING OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

By JOHN McELROY.

his retreat. Early in the morning he

met Grover advancing without much

plan or energy against his only road

Taylor promptly struck Birge's Bri-

CHAPTER XXXIX.

GEN. BANKS ON "THE TECHE." Banks Tries to Capture Taylor—Narrow gade, which had the advance, in flank, Escape at Bisland—Advance to Alexand forced it back. While Grover was andria-Work of the Gunboats-Or- cautiously developing his line of battle, ganizing Negro Troops—Halleck's Dis-satisfaction With Banks—Back to Port tured gunboat Diana, rushed by him,

was written he must have known that the garrison was at that time at its greatest strength. Gen. Gardner's report shows that on March 31 he had 20,388 present, of whom 16,287 were fit for duty. With his 15,000 men Banks could not have attacked these with any hope of success. To have sat down for a siege would have been an invitation for Pemberton or Johnston to send down enough men to scatter the Army of the Gulf, and perhaps recover New Orleans.

Banks was therefore right in retiring to the works around Baton Rouge, where he left Augur's Division. He sent Grover and Emory to resume the work of clearing out the Teche country and disposing of Dick Taylor.

Banks himself went directly to New Orleans to give personal attention to some of the details of administration of that troublesome city.

Gen. Dick Taylor had cherished the

hope that by hovering near New Orleans he might capture the city by taking advantage of some event on the east side of the river. He tried hard to bring Kirby Smith and J. B. Magruder into cooperation with his plans and movements, but had little success. But little more was heard of Magruder after his capture of Galveston. convivial habits were getting in their effects upon him.

Taylor, with his headquarters at Franklin, La., had established himself in strong fortifications at Fort Bisland, near where the New Orleans & Opelousas Railroad reached Bayou Teche 80 miles west of New Orleans. He had in the neighborhood of 5,000 effectives, though report greatly magnified that

Banks made an excellent plan for surrounding and capturing him, but the execution of the same was sadly delayed, partly by the halting incoherence which always characterized Banks's management, partly by the lack of transportation facilities, and partly by the overflowed condition of the whole country, which greatly retarded movements. Banks was not a man of commanding energy and force, who could compel the zealous co-ordination of his subordinates, or had any of that vehement purpose of Lyon, Grant, Sheridan and Sherman which would improvise means and turn the resources of the country to his advantage. Weitzel, Grover, Emory and T. W. Sherman were all good, faithful soldiers of more than usual ability, but they were not men of enterprise and aggressiveness, and always needed above and behind them some master mind who would supply them with the requisite impulse. Banks was not capable of this.

Provoking Delays.

Though Banks had left Port Hudson on March 15, to begin his movemen against Taylor, and started Emory and Grover on the short march across the country to join Weitzel at Brashear City, it was not until the 10th of April, or nearly a month later, that he had his little army of 17,000 in hand to begin operations. Banks himself arrived at Brashear City April 8, and two precious days were lost before Weitzel's Brigade and Emory's Division began crossing Berwick Bay, to move directly upon Taylor at Fort Bisland.

Slow as these movements were, they strangely enough caught Dick Taylor napping. Taylor was a man of great intelligence and activity, and had the highest opinion of his own abilities. In his very bright book, "Destruction and Reconstruction," he is very liberal in his criticisms of everybody—Union and Confederate-and takes no pains to conceal his own opinion of his superiority to all of them. In spite of all this, and in spite of the weeks that Banks had taken to prepare, Taylor had no idea what was impending, and was actually preparing to cross the Berwick Bay and attack Weitzel, when he was surprised by Weitzel's men coming across the bay to attack him.

Banks's plan was to move directly onto Taylor's front with Weitzel and Emory, while Grover went up Grand Lake on transports, convoyed by small gunboats, and placed his division across Taylor's only line of retreat at Irish With Banks's great superiority of force this could have been done easily, if the commanders had been equal to their opportunity. Banks had 17,000 men, where Taylor had probably

not over 5,000. But it took Grover two days to get his division on the transports, and then ing to St. Martinsville, following the T., and April 13 the lookouts on our he met with all manner of mishaps. A windings of the Teche, while the leftfog stopped his sailing. One of his vessels grounded, and had to be gotten off
the way of Vermillionville. While not the Queen of the West and Mary T.

The looked of the clamor over Butler's drastic policy had become too great for the Administration to longer dispersant. As usual in the Southern States, the Union men before the expedition proceeded. When a large place, New Iberia was and recame through Chicot Pass to attack in the Southern States, the Union men the reached his landing place, it was mains a very important point in westhe reached his landing place, it was mains a very important point in west-under water, and another had to be ern Louisiana. It is the capital of the Estrella, Calhoun and Arizona in ouite as much as they did the common

furnishing an immense supply of this needed condiment. It was by far the best source of salt for the Southern Banks asking Admiral Farragut to co-Confederacy, which suffered from its operate with him in an attack upon scarcity. The Confederate Government Alexandria and also to patrol the river distribution of the product to the country. The deposit of salt rises close to the surface and has only to be quarried in blocks, which are broken up into clear crystal fragments and vield the finest table salt. Panks or

and escaped with nearly all his men loss was not reported, but it was very the important bridges across the yards and opened fire, though she was great in prisoners and deserters. They bayou, with the result that the next much embarrassed by the eddies and Halleck was as much in error as he also lost two gunboats and all their two days were spent in rebuilding frequently was, and there was no ex- transports. They blew up and burned these, and Weitzel's advance was di-

cuse for this error, as when his report all these but one, which we captured. verted from St. Martinsville to come GRAND ECORE NATCHITOCHES NATCHEZ BROOKHAVEN MAGNOLIA OSYKA SIMMESPORT OPELOUSAS VERMILLIONVILLE

THE LOWER LOUISIANA COUNTRY. (Shaded portion swampy.)

Work of the Gunboats.

sent at them from these little craft.

Taylor sent back with all haste to Al-

enemy had raised Col. Ellet's formida-

ble Queen of the West, which they had

captured from him 10 weeks before,

and with little difficulty had fitted her

Early in the operations in Louisiana

cess, it was not at all what it should ill-luck attended Emory's advance on have been. force take advantage of the difficult crossings and the narrow causeways through the swamps. Taylor's army was putting all speed into his heels to through the swamps. Taylor's army was putting all speed into his heels to get away. April 19 the army finally was, however, rapidly going to pieces, and near Opelousas the Texans of the Vermillion and without as Banks must have known from the meeting any opposition continued its march the next day to Opelousas, the march the next day to Opelousas, the was left to him toward Alexandria, but have not set important town in that section It made the march as deliberately as not constituted and is thus described by Gen. Talia-fiero (Confederate) of Jackson's Corps:

"It was one of the most terrific conflicted in the march as deliberately as not constituted in the march as deliberately as not cons hese facts should have inspired.

ing the advance to Gen. Grover instead Orleans. of Gen. Weitzel. Gen. Weitzel was thoroughly acquainted with the country, which he had carefully studied. Grover at that time much outranked it was found absolutely necessary to Weitzel, having been a Captain of some have light vessels armed with guns years' standing in the Regular Army heavier than field pieces to co-operate at the outbreak of the war, where with the movements of the troops and Weitzel had been only recently pro- meet similar craft employed by the moted to a First Lieutenancy, and having been commissioned a Brigadier-boats at hand were taken and fitted General, April 14, 1862, where Weitzel out hastily from the funds of the army, did not get a similar commission until and four of these boats, the Estrella. Aug. 29, 1862. There was no braver Arizona, Clifton and Calhoun, under soldier in the army than Cuvier Grov- Lieut.-Commander A. P. Cooke, acer, none more zealous or more alert, companied Banks on his movement to but he was by nature cautious and con-servative, with a high respect for the exact letter of his orders. These verse of enterprising and aggressive. Lake to Irish Bend. As soon as the ience in Indian fighting in the West, and became a Captain of the 10th U. S., Sept. 17, 1858. He was commissioned a Brigadier-General of Volunteers and gained a brevet of Lieutenant-Colonel for gallant work at Williamsburg and of Colonel for Fair Oaks. He was later to do splendid ser- exandria for the assistance of more vice with his division at Winchester, gunboats from the Red River. The Fisher's Hill and Cedar Creek. He

died June 6, 1885. Occupation of New Iberia. On the afternoon of April 16 the for further service. She was brought army reached New Iberia, where the down the Atchafalaya with two other roads parted, the right-hand one leadand arrow the sunder water, and arrow without a sunder water water water water. This welcome intelligence was not such the positions from which to assult as soon as they could hear Grover's cannous.

Taylor Escapes Fress the Tray.

This welcome intelligence was not sunder water water. This welcome intelligence was not as one positions from which to assult as soon as they could hear Grover's cannous.

Taylor Escapes Fress the Tray.

This welcome intelligence was not as a sunder the could be composed to th

yield the finest table salt. Banks or-dered Grover to destroy the works, and Hart in command of all of them. Hart Grover sent on this errand Col. Wil- examined Black River, found no indiliam K. Kimball with the 12th Me., cations of any force in that neighbor-41st Mass., one company of the 24th Conn., and a section of Nims's Bat-dria, reaching the neighborhood of tery. Kimball burned all the buildings Gordon's Landing on the evening of and destroyed the engines and tools, May 3. The next morning they startwith 600 barrels of salt. While this ed early, and at 8:40 reached the bluff was being done a number of important and bend which had been the scene of factories, including two cannon foun-dries in New Iberia, were destroyed, 10 weeks before. Not destring to run with a large quantity of supplies for into the same trap, Hart moved slowly the plains of Manassas. around the bluff to investigate, and Hudson.

Gen. Halleck was much disappointed that Gen. Banks did not attack Port Hudson while Farragut was steaming by, and take the place. In his report by, and take the place. In his report for 1863 Halleck says:

"Had our land over land over land over land our land forces invested Port of 1863 Halleck says:

"Had our land or same and escaped with nearly all his men, his greatest loss being conscripts who take the pursuit toward Vermillion, days in front of him a fort with three saw in front of him a fort with three dasemates—Fort DeRussey—the guns the Confederate army.

On the 26th telegraphic communists with interest and saw in front of him a fort with three dasemates—Fort DeRussey—the guns of which commanded the long stretch of the river in front of it. Two river steamers, with steam up, lay near the deserves, with steam up, lay near the fort and a flatboat upon which has been mounted one of the heavy guns army about two miles distant in the Confederate army.

On the 26th telegraphic communists with interest and escaped with nearly all his men, his greatest loss being conscripts who take in front of him a fort with three dasemates—Fort DeRussey—the guns of the carmage of the carmage of the care and the confederate army.

April 17 Grover led the pursuit to desert to the Union lines.

In the meanwhile Weitzel and Emory and been pushing forward, not too the carmage of the river in front of it. Two river is the carmage of the c the intricacy of the channel. She kept up the fight 40 minutes, encountering not only the heavy guns of Fort De-Russey but a storm of rifle shots from the men on the river steamers, who were contemplating repeating Magruder's exploit at Galveston in boarding the gunboats and carrying them by overwhelming force. After having been hulled 11 times, having her spars and rigging injured and losing two men killed and four wounded Lieut.-Com-mander Hart decided that the force was too strong for him to grapple with with his light fleet and gave the order to retire. On his way down the river he met Commodore Porter, who had left Grand Gulf as soon as he saw it in possession of Grant, and started for the Red River, taking with him the flagship Benton, the Lafayette, Pittsburg. Price, the ram Switzerland and the tug Ivy. Porter ordered the Estrella and Arizona to join him, sent the Albatross back to Farragut, and started up the river again, arriving in front of Fort DeRussey on the evening of May 5, to find the fort abandoned and all the guns, except one 64-pounder, removed. The raft was struck by the Price's ram and opened, and the Arizona, being the fastest vessel, was rushed ahead to surprise any steamer that might be at Alexandria. She found Longstreet's powerful corps of 25,000 tle of Groveton, in which our division grass, while groans, imprecations and that the town had been evacuated by men. Taylor, who had removed most of the Confederate public property to Shreveport, 350 miles farther up, whither the gunboats could not follow him. Banks's Asivance.

first the men reveled in from army rations, but it was not long that Sigel and Jackson had met, and was wafted toward us by the evening before they became disgusted with indicated that we were also approach breeze. In our rear the rattle of chicken, fresh pork, beef, mutton and ing the hour for deadly and earnest

April 24 Banks indulged in a quite (the 11th Pa.) in advance.

Thomas would have done to catch this remnant and destroy it, but instead back." marched forward deliberately and

his engineers abundant time to construct new ones. The roads were good, the weather field. fine, and though Banks had definitely abandoned by Taylor. The regiments smote upon the thick, suitry air. exact letter of his orders. These then went to assist the army transports began a race for the honor of being qualities naturally made him the rein carrying Grover's Division up Grand to climbing up the rugged sides of the flict had not yet arrived. o'clock that evening Weitzel's old bri- gap. Once upon the summit, D. R. At 2 o'clock in the afternoon of the Grover was born in Maine, and gradu-troops were clear of their decks the gade reached the town ahead of all the ated with high rank in the class of gunboats did good work in driving off others. At Alexandria Banks had a gade reached the town ahead of all the 1850. He had some years of exper- the enemy's batteries which were op- long conference with Porter and it posing the landing. The rebels found was decided that as the river was fallafter a few rounds that their field guns ing Porter should withdraw with were no match for the nine-inch shells all his vessels except the Lafayette. He was to send four gunboats up the After the destruction of the enemy's Black River to more certainly ascergunboats and transports at Irish Bend, tain the condition of affairs in northern Louisiana and Arkansas. Gen. Weitzel followed the Confederate rear guard to Lawson's Ferry, 41 miles above Alexandria, taking a few prisoners and coming near to capturing Taylor himself.

Gen Banks's Ulterior Objects. Gen. Banks kept himself busy if he did not his army. One of the reasons for his supersession of Butler was that

By PHIL K. FAULK, Co. F, 11th Pa.

The Confederates still moved on our been killed by the concussion of air right, and on the evening of the 27th it caused by a passing shot or sheil. Such was known that Stonewall Jackson had instances have been known. passed through Thoroughfare Gap and

A MONTH OF BATTLES.

at All Points.

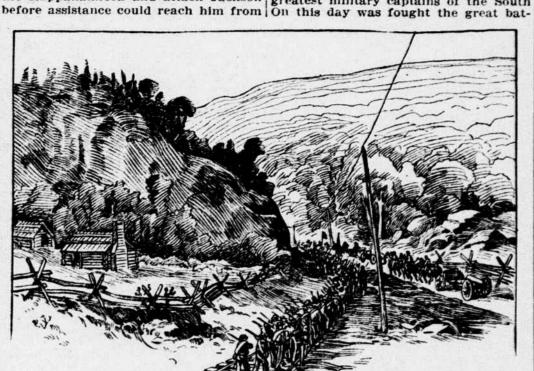
was then concentrating his forces on On the 26th telegraphic communi-

lifeless body failed to discover a single wound or scratch. He had probably During the night after the battle two

of the wounded of our regiment died in the ambulances. On a little knoll near Bristoe Station they were placed side by side in a single grave to slumber on

"Had our land forces invested Port
Hudson at this time, it could easily have been reduced, as its garrison was

We lost at Bisland 40 killed and 184 army about two miles distant in the discouraged, boys; we're no cowwas a heavy raft blocking the stream and secured by chains to both banks. The Confederate armies skillfully led by the important bridges across the loss was not reported, but it was very have with the result that the next of the confict of the confidence of the co



LONGSTREET'S MARCH THROUGH THOROUGHFARE GAP.

Fitz-John Porter Arrives.

as does not often come to soldiers in Potomac until after the battle of Ma- readiness for bloody work. the field. They were like Grant's men nassas. They numbered in all, includin his operations in the rear of Vicksburg before he regained his line of On the evening of the 27th Ricketts's sunset. In our front the sharp detonasupplies above the city. In that fer- Division was at Gainesville, hav- tions of vollies of musketry mingling in their rear batteries of artillery tile country, so far untouched by war, ing marched from Warrenton. Early with wild cheers sent a strange thrill less destructive than the fierce positive there was an abundance of fresh meat on the morning of the 28th the comof all kinds, including poultry. At mand was again in motion. The heavy could see the pale-blue battle smoke as of musketry that assailed us from their the change boom of artillery far to the right told it lifted from the struggling lines and immediate front.

corn bread, so that they loathed the work.
sight of such food. April 23 the little Upon arriving at Haymarket Hartsteamer Cornie arrived at Barre's suff's Brigade was at once ordered to Landing from the base of supplies at push forward to Thoroughfare Gap, Brashear City with a full cargo of through which Longstreet was expectarmy rations, and the men howled ed to pass, with orders to hold the Gap their delight at getting back to the until dark. The men left knapsacks good old salt pork, hardtack, coffee at Haymarket and moved forward five miles to the Gap, our regiment the Teche, where he was unable to pre- unnecessary review of his entire army marching to Thoroughfare a most des-Gen. Banks marched forward-it vent the enemy from burning the on one of the fine prairies near Opel- perate battle was taking place on our would be a misuse of the word to say bridges, and we have another story of ousas. He found that all his regiments right, where Gibbon's Iron Brigade he pushed on—in pursuit of Taylor, mishaps on account of a courier with had been cut down severely by the and Doubleday's Brigade, composed of who, knowing the country thoroughly, important orders losing his way. Banks was able to embarrass him at every brought everything over to the support step, and with a comparatively small of Grover. Instead, however, of Tayforce take advantage of the difficult of menacing him with an attack he anxious for further service. and is thus described by Gen. Talia-

he did not act with the energy that most important town in that section. It made the march as deliberately as pos- cessation of the most deadly discharges is about 60 miles west of Baton Rouge sible and checked Banks's pursuit by of musketry, round shot and shell, both He has been much criticised for giv- and 150 miles west-northwest of New burning the bridges over the bayous sides stood unmoved, neither advancand rivers as he passed them. Banks ing and neither broken nor yielding, made no haste, as Grant, Sheridan or until at last about 9 o'clock at night the enemy slowly and sullenly fell

> Stonewall Jackson called this "a halted before the burnt bridges to give fierce and sanguinary conflict." More than one-third of the Federal command reviving dews rescended upon the was left dead and wounded on the

> To return to our brigade, while mov- cannon announced the opening of anset to be in Alexandria on the morning ing toward Thoroughfare Gap the con- other chapter in the fierce drama alof May 9, Weitzel's Division reached a fused noise of battle rolled continuous-point some 12 miles from Alexandria ly from our right. Hardly a breath of tically toward the meridian, at times on the afternoon of May 7, and was air rustled the somber pine foliage and dimmed by dust and smoke, but still there informed by the cavalry that Porter was already in the river off Alexandria and that the town had been exandria and that the town had been parched roadways. No martial music smote upon the thick, sultry air.
>
> In a short time our advance was but the decisive hour for general con-

took no active part.

About this time Fitz-John Porter preparation for battle were everywhere batants. His men now had an experience such ments received from the Army of the terrible paraphernalia of war was in unyielding purpose that formed

the wreathing smoke and shaken by the deafening thunder of musketry and artillery, the devoted brigade pressed forward "into the valley of death-into the mouth of hell." No martial had seized it and was controlling the and look out for a force coming down had seized it and was controlling the from the Arkansas country by the way music cheered the weary ranks. Only the column as 'the rebel batteries vomited forth their deadly iron hall and the terrible zip-zip of the minie ball was quenched in blood. As we crossed Cub Run streams of stragglers and wounded poured down from Bald Hill. A great many of them wore the red breeches of the Zouaves and their brilliant uniforms had made them conspicuous marks for the enemy's rifles. One poor fellow passed us with a frightful wound in the face, a shot having carried away his mouth and lower

> Our brigade now deployed into line and advanced, guide right, toward the summit of Bald Hill. As we reached he crest upon which our batteries had

the hill. Regiment after regimen? swept forward swiftly, almost, as the wreathing clouds of smoke that were carried from the field by the south wind, and flung into line of battle filled: up the gap through which the massech divisions of the enemy were attempting to pour. Immediately upon reaching Bald

Hill the command "Attention!—Fix bayonets!" rang out in tones strong and clear. Instantly the nervous click and rattle of steel ran along the line and the polished bayonets reflected fiercely the glitter of the sun's rays. I momentarily expected the order to charge against the oncoming lines of gray, and felt even anxious for the maddening excitement of such an advance. No such orders came, the brigade moving some rods by the left flank under a murderous fire of musketry and artillery. But it was now our time to reply, and immediately our whole line was ablaze with spiteful streams of fire as our musketry opened flercely on the heavy gray masses that came rolling on like a huge, resistless billow ready to engulf all opposition. In the face of our fire their lines pressed forward with desperate courage, with their battle flags pushed bravely to the front. The ground had become encumbered with the dead and dying. Great pools of At Manassas Junction evidences of the and the hoarse voices of the compreparation for battle were everywhere batants. The rebel yell was easily diswith 13,000 bayonets reported from seen. On our left the boom of the tinguishable from the full, round in-McClellan's army, also two divisions of deep-mouthed cannon smote incessant-tonations of the cheers which rolled the Third Corps, under Gens. Hooker ly upon our ears, while clouds of dust from our lines. It was Longstreet's From Opelouses Banks marched on and Phil Kearny, numbering 10,000 and smoke hung like misty vapors Corps massed in solid lines of attack uite deliberately toward Alexandria. men. These were all the reinforce- above all the surrounding country. The and pushed forward with a desperate, serried array in our front. Their Ricketts's Division was moved to formation was in echelon. Line after of excitement through every heart. We less destructive than the fierce peding

Breast to Breast Fighting. At this critical period Gen. Towers



JACKSON'S POSITION ON RIDGE IN BACKGROUND. (View from Groveton.) wheels was heard continuously. The who was in command of Hartsuff's

from the field.

artillery was getting into position. The Fight at Bald Hill. As the curtain of night spread its somber pall over the embattled hosts, parched and dusty plains. With the coming morn the heavy thunder of upon Col. Coulter, of the 11th Pa.

Brigade, was seriously wounded. Col. Fletcher Webster, of the 12th Mass. "a noble son of an illustrious sire," had fallen. Col. Stiles, of the 83d N. Y., was absent on detached duty, and the command of the brigade devolved "Do the best you can to hold the position, Colonel," were the words of Gen. Towers as he was borne bleeding

The battle now raged at its height,

and the incessant roar of artillery and musketry was appalling. Lieut.-Col. Thos. S. Martin, of the 11th Pa., was pierced through the heart with a minie ball within six feet of me. No braver spirit escended to the God of battles from that fatal field. Our Major, H. A. Frink, while exhorting the line to be steady and firm, was struck by a musket ball on the temple and fell from his saddle, apparently dead. Col. Coulter's horse received a shot through the neck. Bash, a comrade of Co. F, received a rifle ball through the heart, and as a comrade caught him as he fell he exclaimed: "Let me die, and pitch in!" Hugh Blakeny, David Atchison, Michael O'Leary and Sam Rumbaugh, also comrades of Co. F, were lying dead upon the gory field. The entire surface of Bald Hill was covered with the dead and dying. The enemy's line still advancing, our right wing was compelled to fall back, but not until half its number had fallen. Suddenly a wild yell and a murderous roll of musketry far to the left told that our position was flanked and the day was lost. Then commenced the

second memorable retreat from

disastrous field of Manassas. In broken

masses our forces on this part of the

